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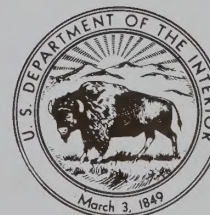
BLM

Bureau of Land Management

IN WYOMING

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BLM IN WYOMING



Mission Statement

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the stewardship of our public lands. It is committed to manage, protect, and improve these lands in a manner to serve the needs of the American people for all times. Management is based on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of our Nation's resources within a framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology. These resources include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, air, scenic, scientific, and cultural values.

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BLM IN WYOMING

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Overview

This is the BLM in Wyoming report of progress during the past year. As BLM in Wyoming records its activities managing over 18 million acres of public land, it is proud of its association with the state's industries.

Wyoming's number one industry is energy. Some 60 percent of that industry is dependent on federal mineral leases. The state of Wyoming benefits by some \$150 million per year as its share of annual federal mineral royalties.

Wyoming's number two industry is outdoor recreation and the BLM records public land use at more than one million visitor use days a year, largely by hunters and fishermen. Today people are looking for new ways to enjoy the outdoors providing BLM in Wyoming the opportunity to develop many raw recreational resources and to become closely associated with a variety of constituents.

Wyoming's number three industry is agriculture and some 2,800 of the state's 5,000 ranchers graze livestock on public land.

As BLM in Wyoming looks to the future, the agency will maintain its close association with its traditional patrons and will also build relationships with emerging interests.

BLM manages the public land following the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. As the public's desire to make new uses of the public land expands, BLM in Wyoming will provide those resources.

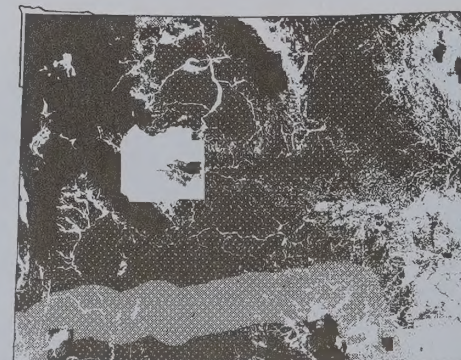


BLM IN WYOMING

Public Land and Federal Minerals Administered by BLM in Wyoming

County	Acres of Public Land	Acres of Federal Minerals Under Private Land
Albany	303,134	571,266
Big Horn	1,123,297	112,266
Campbell	235,966	2,125,580
Carbon	2,088,539	475,989
Converse	144,186	1,216,057
Crook	150,725	375,690
Fremont	2,094,564	347,126
Goshen	26,305	209,754
Hot Springs	514,937	237,679
Johnson	512,281	1,167,558
Laramie	17,257	166,975
Lincoln	999,725	115,818
Natrona	1,762,328	1,275,191
Niobrara	124,245	622,237
Park	520,324	340,752
Platte	82,087	319,207
Sheridan	48,170	641,520
Sublette	1,264,504	386,248
Sweetwater	4,951,030	76,295
Teton	9,005	40,850
Uinta	413,605	100,704
Washakie	928,557	209,206
Weston	75,926	505,808
Total	18,390,697	11,639,563
Nebraska	7,653	106,000

■ Surface administered by BLM



■ Subsurface minerals administered by BLM

BLM in Wyoming Salaries by Community

Community	Salary
Worland	\$2,548,400
Cody	373,600
Rawlins	2,905,500
Lander	932,500
Rock Springs	2,822,300
Kemmerer	560,100
Pinedale	541,700
Casper	2,588,000
Newcastle	534,600
Buffalo	607,200
Cheyenne	7,122,200
Gillette	260,900
State Total	\$21,797,000

BLM in Wyoming Funding Levels

Management of Lands and Resources	End of FY90
Energy and Minerals	\$10,755,000
Lands and Realty	1,555,000
Renewable Resource Development	8,489,000
Planning and Data Management	902,000
Cadastral Survey	878,000
Enforcement	240,000
General Administration and EEO	2,027,000
Maintenance	1,322,000
Aviation	49,000
Subtotal	\$26,217,000
From Other Appropriations	109,000
Access and Construction	1,099,000
Range Improvements	90,000
Forest Pest Control	928,000
Fire Fighting	465,000
ALMRS	20,000
Grasshopper Control	1,225,300
Miscellaneous Reimbursements/Fees	
Subtotal	\$3,936,300
Total	\$30,153,300

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Act

In 1976, Congress passed the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Act to provide federal money to local county governments whose jurisdictions contained large areas of land in federal ownership exempt from property taxes. These funds may be used by the counties as they see fit.

Payments are computed by a complex formula that takes into account population figures and the amount of certain types of federal land in each county. This includes land managed by the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and certain lands used by the Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. military. Any revenue sharing monies received by the counties the preceding year are deducted from the total and the balance is paid directly to the counties.

All of Wyoming's 23 counties receive some PILT money.

BLM was selected by Congress in the Act to manage the PILT program and has made payments to local governments containing qualified federal land since 1976.

County	Entitlement Acres	Payments
Albany	680,162	\$423,234
Big Horn	1,545,465	344,090
Campbell	394,469	39,459
Carbon	2,724,664	368,023
Converse	405,214	40,521
Crook	336,588	68,870
Fremont	3,214,881	703,617
Goshen	28,219	21,102
Hot Springs	570,718	275,577
Johnson	837,855	259,679
Laramie	10,182	7,519
Lincoln	1,945,840	316,318
Natrona	1,482,652	998,706
Niobrara	125,085	92,371
Park	3,590,597	438,104
Platte	106,014	79,471
Sheridan	444,346	275,042
Sublette	2,432,437	243,225
Sweetwater	4,510,747	925,383
Teton	2,631,274	269,990
Uinta	566,797	417,300
Washakie	964,957	336,678
Weston	309,797	30,925
Total	29,858,960	\$6,975,204

Aviation

With public lands and BLM offices located throughout the state aviation is an integral part of transportation. Aircraft use within Wyoming is diverse and complex. It includes special-use type aircraft used in high risk environments such as fire management, wild horse roundups, wildlife counts, wilderness monitoring, and land and mineral program management. Many flight hours are logged in general administrative type flying due to the limited commercial airline services available. During 1990 approximately 1,000 hours were flown in BLM contract and rental aircraft.

Automation Effort

BLM in Wyoming continues to implement automation of its land records and resource data and upgrade the necessary computers. The BLM has implemented Geographic Information Systems (GIS) use in all Wyoming offices for map computer analysis and project support. BLM has an ongoing modernization project which includes the Automated Land and Mineral Records System (ALMRS) and the Public Land Survey System/Geographic Coordinate Data Base (PLSS/GCDB). The ALMRS alphanumeric data base is under construction, using a contractor with offices in Wyoming. Some of this data base is available to the public through computer terminals in the Bureau's Cheyenne public room. The entire ALMRS data base will be completed in 1994-95.

In the fall of 1989, the Bureau awarded a contract to obtain coordinates of the Public Land Survey System which involves obtaining coordinates for the entire landnet in Wyoming. The BLM contractor will complete work in 1994-95. This extensive statewide data base will allow for automated title plat drafting and the use of BLM land records in Land Information Systems (LIS) and GIS. The GCDB will derive geographic coordinates from Global Positioning Systems (GPS) satellite technology, other agency coordinate data bases, and digitizing found corners on topographic maps along with the use of Bureau survey plats. The coordinates for all corners are then calculated in a coordinate computation system and will be stored in the Geographic Coordinate Data Base for use in automated systems by the BLM, other agencies and the public.

Cadastral Survey

During 1990 cadastral survey crews continued on a long-term project to resurvey large areas of the Powder River Basin in northeastern Wyoming. About 8 townships amounting to 184,320 acres were surveyed during 1990 bringing the total to 3,373,620 acres completed.

These resurveys frequently reveal a significant difference in section boundaries from those lines portrayed on prior survey plats and topographic maps.

BLM in Wyoming also conducted numerous other surveys during 1990. Many of them were for land exchanges, public land sales, trespass cases and for other federal agencies.



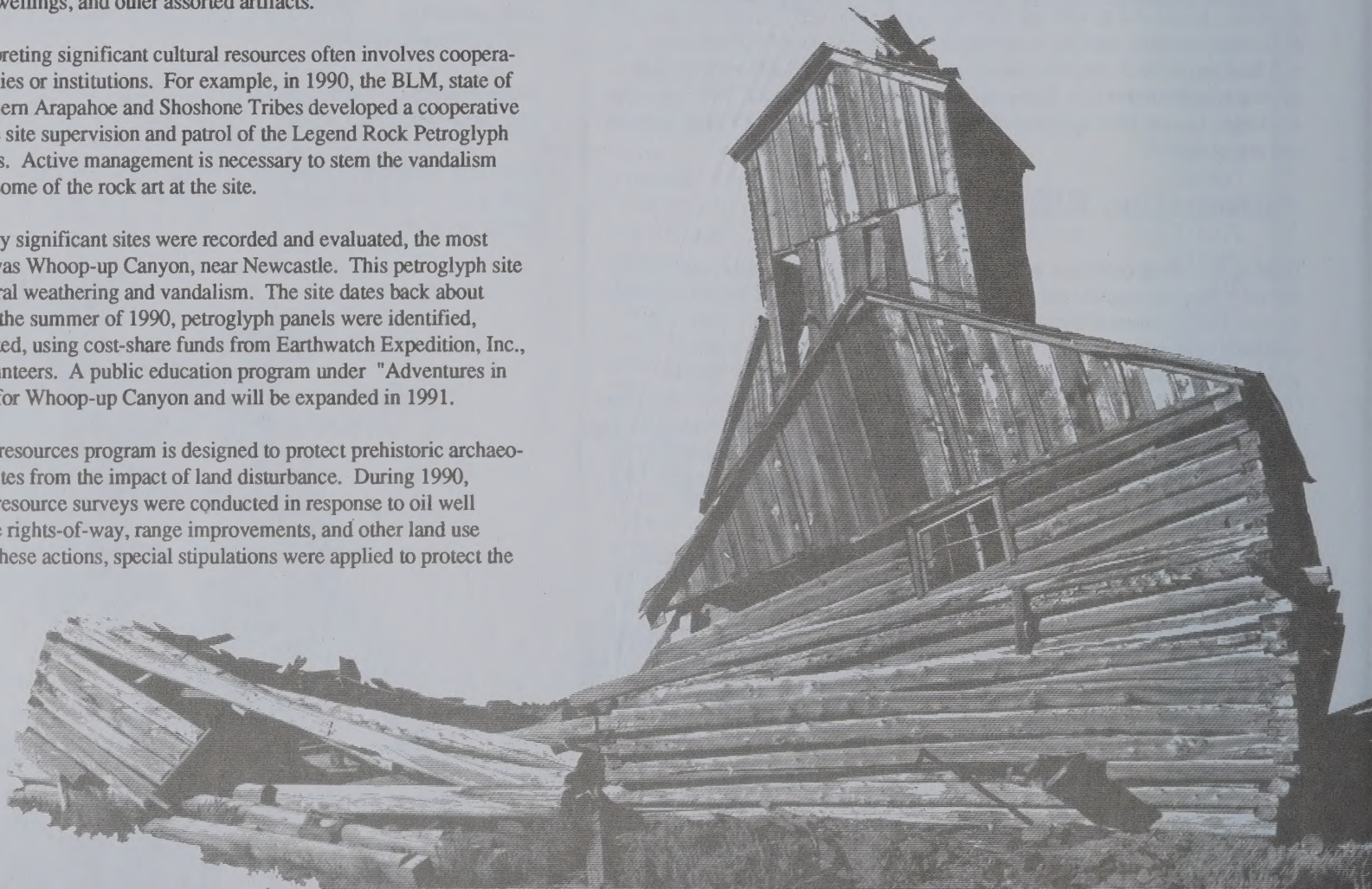
Cultural Resources

Public lands in Wyoming harbor remains and artifacts reflecting some 12,000 years of human occupation. These include stone implements, etched rock art, vestiges of ancient dwellings, and other assorted artifacts.

Preserving and interpreting significant cultural resources often involves cooperation with other agencies or institutions. For example, in 1990, the BLM, state of Wyoming, and Northern Arapahoe and Shoshone Tribes developed a cooperative agreement to provide site supervision and patrol of the Legend Rock Petroglyph site near Thermopolis. Active management is necessary to stem the vandalism which has damaged some of the rock art at the site.

During the year, many significant sites were recorded and evaluated, the most important of which was Whoop-up Canyon, near Newcastle. This petroglyph site is threatened by natural weathering and vandalism. The site dates back about 8,000 years. During the summer of 1990, petroglyph panels were identified, recorded, and evaluated, using cost-share funds from Earthwatch Expedition, Inc., and professional volunteers. A public education program under "Adventures in the Past" was begun for Whoop-up Canyon and will be expanded in 1991.

Much of the cultural resources program is designed to protect prehistoric archaeological and historic sites from the impact of land disturbance. During 1990, hundreds of cultural resource surveys were conducted in response to oil well construction, pipeline rights-of-way, range improvements, and other land use actions. In many of these actions, special stipulations were applied to protect the cultural resources.



EEO Program

BLM in Wyoming's equal employment opportunity program is aimed a step further than ensuring equal opportunity in employment and personnel treatment. The BLM actively pursued its cooperative education program where students go to college during part of the year and work for and learn from the BLM other parts of the year. This program may lead to permanent employment upon graduation. During 1990, two students were involved with this program. BLM was also involved in the Stay in School program with three students. This program is designed to provide work experience and money for disadvantaged students to continue their education.

BLM also used the upward mobility program three times this past year to retrain employees in positions with no advancement potential to qualify for positions with promotion potential.

Women employees make up 35.4% of the workforce while minorities comprise 8.7%.

Facility Management

The value of facilities used by BLM in Wyoming exceeds \$16.5 million. These facilities are at 13 office locations and include office buildings, warehouses, and storage yards. In addition BLM maintains seven administrative sites, 17 major recreation sites, and 30 less improved sites. BLM also maintains over 800 miles of road annually including five major bridge structures. Maintenance costs for these facilities and improvements last year was \$1,322,000.

Fire Management

During the 1990 fire season BLM in Wyoming responded to 87 wildland fires which burned 1,496 acres of public land. This is 14 fires and 5,200 acres less than the annual average.

During 1990, BLM in Wyoming completed 9 prescribed burns on 2,231 acres. This included 121 acres of slash for disposal and 2,110 acres of sagebrush for wildlife habitat and forage improvement.

Fish & Wildlife Habitat

Public lands in Wyoming support 246,409 white-tail and mule deer, 226,700 antelope, 35,000 elk, 2,480 moose, and 1,220 bighorn sheep and 70 mountain goat big game species.

There are currently three mammals, five birds, one amphibian, and four fish species listed as "threatened" or "endangered" that are known to live on or adjacent to public lands in the state, or that have potential habitat there. Among these is the black-footed ferret. BLM in Wyoming has been working cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in developing management plans and environmental analyses at two sites that include

public land and federal mineral estate. The BLM will manage the habitat on public land at these two sites so as to support black-footed ferret reintroduction by 1992. Also, there are an additional 38 plant and animal species in Wyoming considered to be candidates for listing as "threatened" or "endangered" species.

The BLM is responsible for over 18 million acres of wildlife habitat in Wyoming, about 6.8 million acres of which is intensively managed through habitat management plans (HMPs). Two new HMPs were implemented during the past year.

Habitat management projects completed in the past year include: 34 fish habitat improvement projects, eight raptor or waterfowl nest structures, 12 fence modifications, 19 miles of protective fencing, six new water facilities, three water facility improvements, three prescribed burns on 233 acres, 22 acres seeded, and one wetland improvement project.

During the past year, a "Fish and Wildlife 2000" strategic plan was finalized to guide the BLM's fish and wildlife habitat management efforts in Wyoming to the next century. An activity guide is being implemented to monitor the Bureau's riparian management efforts in response to the national riparian initiative.



Forestry

BLM in Wyoming administers 210,000 acres of commercial forest land and 211,000 acres of woodlands. The commercial standing volume of wood is about one billion board feet. This forest resource provides many benefits including timber products, recreation, wildlife habitat, and watershed.

Timber sales during 1990 amounted to 2,118,000 board feet valued at \$70,502. BLM issued 2,400 use authorizations to the public for 2,366 cords of fuelwood, 404,000 board feet of posts and poles, and 1,509 Christmas trees and wildlings for a combined value of \$28,456.

Many of the lodgepole and ponderosa pine stands on public land are old and susceptible to mountain pine beetle attacks. Beetle activity is expected to continue. To fight this continuing battle, infested and susceptible trees are harvested. Another important forest pest affecting the stands is dwarf mistletoe. This disease reduces the nutrients available for tree growth and eventually results in tree mortality. Stands having dwarf mistletoe are normally harvested using small irregular clear cuts that encompass the infested areas.

Forest development during the year included planting 142 acres with seedlings and seeding 20 acres. Site improvement work took place on 620 acres. Some 49 acres of stagnated lodgepole stands were converted to seedlings. About 269 acres of overstocked forest stands were thinned to promote growth on the remaining healthy trees.

Regeneration stocking surveys were conducted on 475 acres. These surveys show if the areas need to be planted with tree seedlings. BLM conducted forest pest surveys on about 22,000 acres of which about 600 acres were intensively inventoried and analyzed for future treatment.



General Management

Keeping BLM in Wyoming operations running smoothly requires effective administrative support. These critical activities include managing employees, safety, preparing budgets, expense tracking, timely purchases, and supplies and services. They also include conducting management research and evaluations, monitoring workloads and accomplishments, as well as supplying basic needs like vehicles, equipment, office space, telephones and radios.

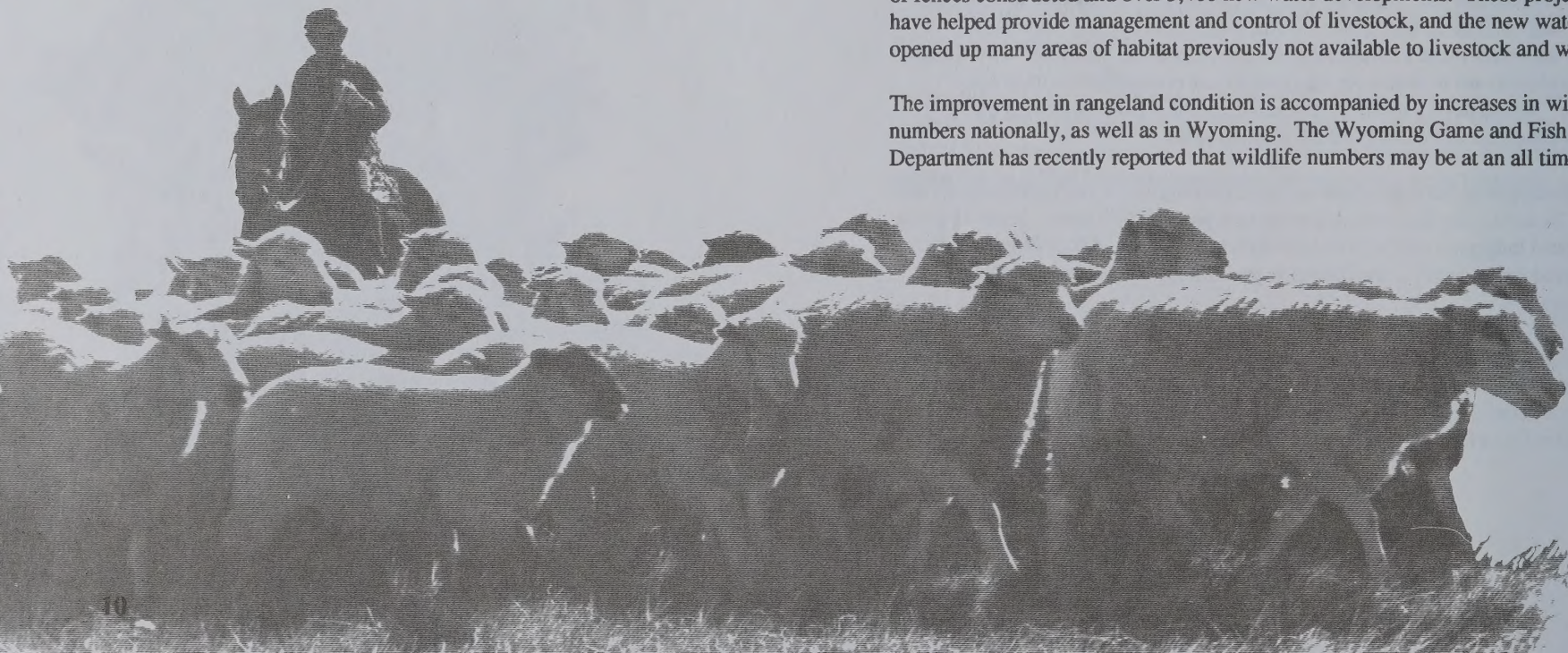
Grazing Management

In 1990, BLM Director Cy Jamison issued a report which stated that the nation's public rangelands were in better shape today than ever before in this century. The trend on over 87 percent of the nation's public rangelands was stable or improving.

Public rangelands in Wyoming are also experiencing similar improvement. Public rangelands in stable or improving condition have increased from 81 percent in 1974 to 87 percent in 1990. Rangelands in excellent and good condition have increased from 19 percent in 1974 to 55 percent in 1990. Rangelands in poor condition have decreased from 31 percent in 1974 to seven percent in 1990.

Since public land management began back in 1940, there have been 10,000 miles of fences constructed and over 5,400 new water developments. These projects have helped provide management and control of livestock, and the new waters opened up many areas of habitat previously not available to livestock and wildlife.

The improvement in rangeland condition is accompanied by increases in wildlife numbers nationally, as well as in Wyoming. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has recently reported that wildlife numbers may be at an all time high.



There are currently 146 allotment management plans implemented in Wyoming that cover 4,876,000 public land acres. The plans provide systematic grazing to accomplish specific objectives for each allotment.

Director Jamison also issued a report called "The Range of Our Vision" that outlined three goals for BLM's range management program. The goals are:

1. To bring 75 percent of the public land riparian areas to good to excellent condition by 1997.
2. To increase the public rangelands that are in good to excellent condition from 33 to 40 percent by the year 2009.
3. To reduce the percentage of public rangelands in poor condition to 10 percent by the year 2009.

In Wyoming, two of the goals have been exceeded and the BLM is confident that the riparian goal can be met. A slow, gradual improvement in rangeland condition is predicted over the next 20 years.



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Land Use Planning and Environmental Coordination

The basis for establishing the uses of public lands administered by BLM lies in comprehensive resource management plans prepared by the BLM. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 requires that BLM prepare and use these plans under principles of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Wyoming the older Management Framework Plans (MFP) are being replaced by the more comprehensive Resource Management Plans (RMP). The RMPs approved so far cover approximately 70 percent of the public lands administered by BLM in Wyoming.

Resource Management Plans

RMP Name	Approval Date	District	Resource Area
Platte River	7/85	Casper	Platte River
Buffalo	10/85	Casper	Buffalo
Kemmerer	4/86	Rock Springs	Kemmerer
Lander	6/87	Rawlins	Lander
Washakie	9/88	Worland	Washakie
Pinedale	12/88	Rock Springs	Pinedale
Great Divide	11/90	Rawlins	Great Divide
Cody	11/90	Worland	Cody
Green River	Started in 1989	Rock Springs	Green River
Newcastle	Started in 1989	Casper	Newcastle
Nebraska	Started in 1989	Casper	Newcastle
Grass Creek	Scheduled to start 1991	Worland	Grass Creek

BLM integrates environmental factors into the existing decision making process and records as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, FLPMA, and the Department of Interior policies and regulations.

In addition to preparing environmental impact statements (EISs) on proposed RMPs, BLM in Wyoming also prepares or assists other agencies to prepare five to eight EISs every year. Personnel in the eleven BLM Resource Areas prepare about 600 environmental assessments (EAs) each year in order to determine whether or not an EIS is needed and determine if special mitigation measures are appropriate.

The EAs are for a wide variety of proposed projects such as approval of Application for Permits to Drill (APD) wells in existing energy fields, weed spraying, low impact electrical transmission lines, energy gathering pipelines, gravel permits, post or pole forest product sales, rehabilitation of areas burned previously by wildfires, group recreation events (like trail rides), and land sales or exchanges.

This past year the BLM completed the following major NEPA documents:

Buffalo Coalbed Methane EA (4/90): This project analyzed potential impacts from development of the methane gas generated by the decomposition of coal. This project was widely reviewed by the state government agencies of both Wyoming and Montana.

Amoco CO2 Projects EIS (12/89): Addressed five proposed projects in Wyoming, including the construction of a new plant near Fontenelle Reservoir in southwestern Wyoming.

ALTAMONT Pipeline Project: The Federal Energy Regulator Commission (FERC) and BLM are jointly preparing the Draft EIS (DEIS) for this proposed project. It proposes to cross Montana and Wyoming with a 620 mile, 30 inch-diameter pipe to carry Canadian methane gas to California. The DEIS is expected to be released for public review in the next few months.

Proposed Cokeville Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (10/90): The BLM is cooperating with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on the preparation of this DEIS. It was released in mid-October for public review and comment. The DEIS analyzes the impacts of the proposed acquisition and management by the FWS of over 26,000 acres in southwestern Wyoming.

Wilderness EISs: The Wyoming BLM released for public comment four Final Wilderness EISs in 1990; the Cody-Grass Creek FEIS, the Great Divide FEIS, the Lander Wilderness EIS, and the Dubois Badlands/Whiskey Mountain Wilderness EIS.



Lands

Sales, exchanges, transfers of land for recreation and public purposes, and rights-of-way make up the majority of the lands program in Wyoming.

Sales during the year included eight parcels totaling 192.83 acres. They earned \$41,171.50 in revenues and were located in Johnson and Sublette Counties in Wyoming and Grant and Hooker Counties in Nebraska.

Lands were also conveyed to the Board of County Commissioners of Goshen County and the Goshen County United School District Number One at essentially no cost. These transfers involved 31.696 acres.

Throughout the year, BLM in Wyoming issued 636 rights-of-way and rights-of-way amendments. Most of these rights-of-way were for oil and gas pipelines and related facilities.

During 1990, exchanges in Wyoming resulted in the BLM acquiring 2808.59 acres of private land (1106.49 acres of which involved only scenic easement inside the Teton National Park) by trading 1376.16 acres of public land and 2560 acres of federal coal. These exchanges were located in Carbon, Crook, Fremont, Johnson, Natrona, Sheridan, Sublette, Teton, and Weston Counties. Included in this acreage, was one state exchange which totaled 901.68 acres. These exchanges will provide the public with more efficient management of the public lands through consolidation of ownership, higher public values for wildlife habitat, and public access. Work continued on other exchanges, such as Red Creek and Goldeneye, among others.

Law Enforcement

During 1990, special agents in the BLM in Wyoming law enforcement program have been successfully involved in numerous criminal investigations. These investigations have included, but were not limited to, violations of the Wild Horse and Burro Act; Taylor Grazing Act; destruction of government property, theft of government property, mineral theft; oil and gas fraud, arson, archaeological theft and destruction; marijuana eradication; and unauthorized disposal of hazardous materials on public lands.

A criminal investigator was hired as the Wyoming State Office drug coordinator to enforce Interior Department directives intended to stop the use, possession, manufacture, cultivation, and transportation of illicit drugs on public lands.

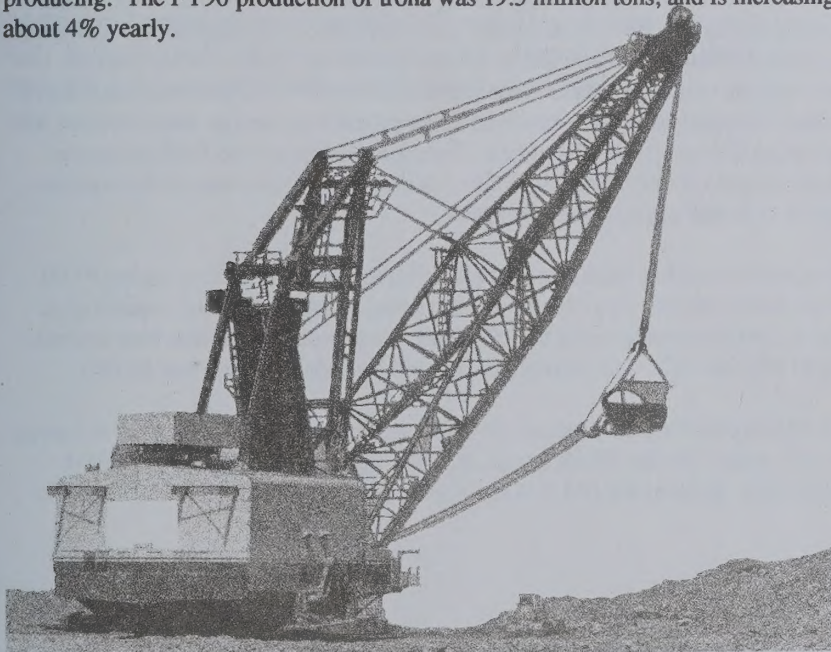
BLM rangers in Wyoming, in addition to their normal patrol functions, participated in activities such as escorting the Centennial Wagon Train during its trip across Wyoming. The BLM rangers were requested to provide assistance to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in support of the Sturgis, South Dakota motorcycle rally. As a result of their work the BLM rangers are becoming well known to the public and state law enforcement agencies as an effective and professional addition to the law enforcement community within Wyoming.

Minerals, Leasable- Bentonite, Sodium, Uranium and Phosphate

BLM in Wyoming administers two non-producing bentonite leases. Bentonite has such diverse uses as for drilling mud, fertilizer, and in making fine chocolates.

There was no uranium activity during the year on the one federal uranium lease in Wyoming, nor phosphate activity on the two federal phosphate leases. There are three active uranium prospecting permits issued in Nebraska.

There are currently 53 federal sodium (trona) leases in Wyoming, 10 of which are producing. The FY90 production of trona was 19.5 million tons, and is increasing about 4% yearly.



Minerals, Leasable - Coal

During 1990 there were 89 federal coal leases in force and 32 of them were producing. Coal production on federal leases totaled an estimated 165 million tons producing royalties of over \$101 million. Coal production amounted to over 70 percent of all federal coal production in the country and almost 15 percent of the nation's total. Wyoming is the nation's number one coal producing state.

New coal leasing activity in the two major coal regions of Wyoming is governed by regional coal teams. The Powder River Regional Coal Team and the Green River-Hams Fork Regional Coal Team are currently decertified, but with an active charter, a team could recertify should the need arise. Because of the decertification, coal lease applications are industry initiated. One lease sale was conducted in FY90 for one small bypass tract near Rock Springs. There was one lease modification for Wyodak which was completed in FY90.

One coal exchange was completed during FY90. However, BLM has several pending coal exchange applications. These applications, which are in various stages, are the Whitney Benefits alluvial valley floor exchange, Texaco alluvial valley floor exchange, and the Belco I-90 coal lease exchange. Five new lease applications and two lease modifications, totalling over 900 million tons of coal, have been received, all for the Powder River Basin.

Minerals, Locatable

During 1990, seven mineral patents for bentonite covering 998.24 acres were issued. BLM in Wyoming has 240,918 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record. During the year 1,588 new claims were recorded and 23,280 old claims were closed. Most of the new claims recorded were for gold and bentonite and the old claims closed were for uranium. There are 36,157 active claims on record for all mineral commodities.

Minerals, Salable

Common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, scoria, pumice, cinders and clay earned \$101,433 in 60 sales, largely to commercial contractors and included some 633,922 cubic yards of mineral materials.

These minerals are also available under free use permits to the state of Wyoming, counties, and non-profit groups for road construction and other uses. During the year, 130,917 cubic yards of material valued at \$73,989, were made from 69 authorizations available under the free use system.

Some minerals sales are made for exclusive use of a particular site. Other materials are sold from a common use area or community pit open to the public. During the year there were 97 community pit and common use area sales of 62,239 yards of material providing \$34,437.



Minerals, Oil and Gas

Despite the continuing depressed market in the oil and gas industry Wyoming remains one of the top federal oil and gas producers in the west. There are some 29,188 federal leases that cover about 19,431,657 acres in the state. During calendar year 1989 (latest information available) these leases and associated units produced 63,815,807 barrels of oil and 472,037,703 cubic feet of gas bringing in \$202,477,715 in rents and royalties, half of which went directly to the state of Wyoming.

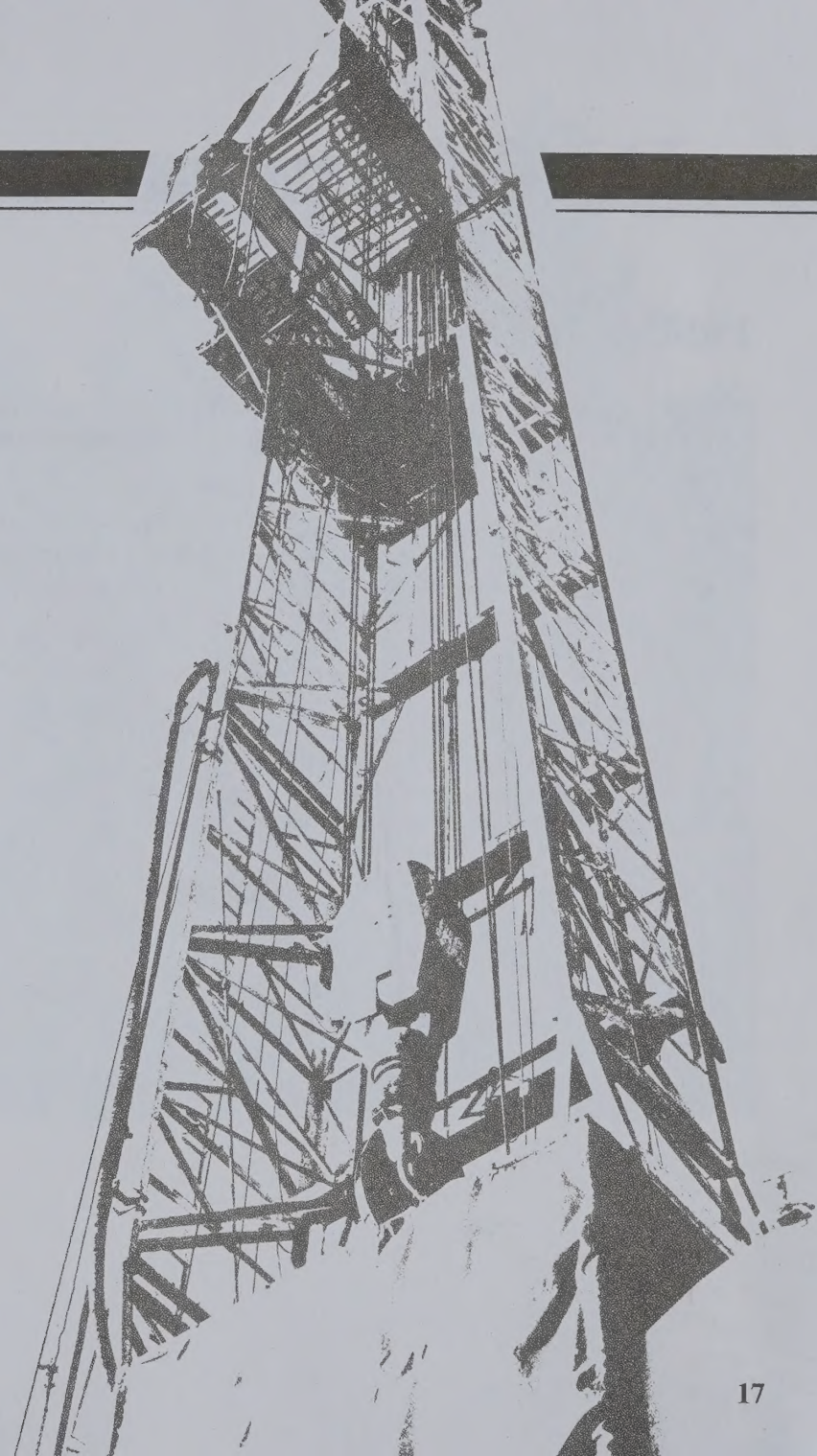
The Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act (FOGRMA) of 1982 was designed, among other things, to assure proper and timely revenue accountability for production from federal and Indian oil and gas leases. In association with this law five onshore orders have been issued as of the end of FY90, that establish duties of lessees operators and others involved in the production, storage, measurement, and transportation or sale of oil and gas. The orders also prescribe field operations requirements for inspection and enforcement actions. There remain four onshore orders to be published in the near future.

Competitive oral bid lease sales were held bimonthly in Wyoming during FY90. Some 3,421 parcels were offered in these sales. A total of 1,579 competitive oil and gas leases encompassing 993,354 acres were issued with bonus bids amounting to \$17,462,722. The highest per-acre bid for a single parcel was \$3,000.

Unsold parcels from the competitive sales are available for noncompetitive leasing for two years. During FY90, a total of 7,196 offers on these leases were filed resulting in the issuance of 1,354 leases on 1,341,352 acres.

Oil prices stabilized at between \$15 and \$20 per barrel during the fiscal year (before the Kuwait invasion of August 2). Oil and gas activity increased from the previous year. BLM in Wyoming recorded 483 new hole starts in FY90, compared to 347 a year earlier, resulting in 312 oil and gas well completions compared to 191 in FY89. The rig count in Wyoming has remained steady with 50 at the end of FY90 compared to 52 at the end of FY89.

Unit and communitization agreements are formed in the interest of conservation and orderly development of oil and gas reserves. A unit agreement is a plan for oil and gas development which consolidates the operations of several owners in an oil field. At the end of FY90, there were 473 exploratory and secondary unit agreements and 1,225 communitization agreements in Wyoming.



Public Affairs

As the outreach arm of BLM in Wyoming, public affairs provides people throughout the state and region with continuing information about Bureau programs and issues.

During 1990, BLM distributed 259 news releases to 150 different outlets throughout the region. Publication results show an average of 70 stories printed a week among Wyoming's 49 newspapers. Television releases were distributed on 220 occasions and all were used.

Public affairs responded to 247 requests for information from the media.

BLM in Wyoming conducted 29 public meetings and hearings involving resource management plans, wilderness proposals, and oil and gas development. It also conducted 14 citizen advisory council and grazing advisory board meetings. In addition, it also provided 152 speakers to schools and organizations.

Range Improvements

The BLM in Wyoming is committed to improving the condition of public range-lands for wildlife habitat, watershed conditions and livestock grazing. Range improvements include seeding, fence construction, weed control, water developments, prescribed fires, and maintenance of existing improvements.

During 1990, BLM constructed 81 miles of fence and installed 17 cattle guards, developed 12 springs with 34 miles of pipeline, constructed 43 reservoirs, drilled nine wells. Additionally, about 6,000 acres of land were burned under prescription.

Funds for range improvements come from two sources. The range betterment fund is derived from 50 percent of all grazing fees. Congress also appropriates direct funds for improvements. During 1990, \$1,037,000 were spent on range improvements.

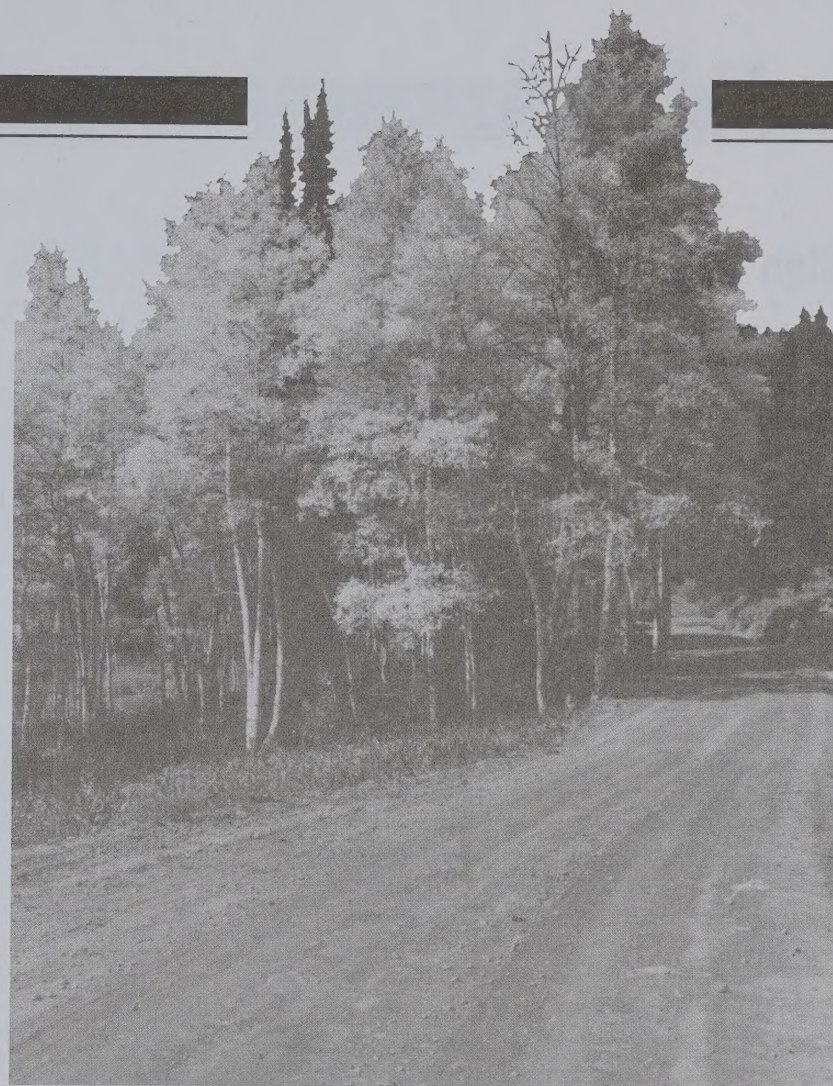
Livestock operators are responsible for the maintenance of most of these range improvements.

Recreation

During this past year, the BLM in Wyoming launched a new program called Back Country Byways. This program results in the designation of some back roads in Wyoming as Back Country Byways. These roads invite the traveler to leave the interstates and major highways and see the real west. There are opportunities to see many species of wildlife such as deer, elk, antelope, eagles, and an occasional coyote. The invitation is there to learn about the geology, history, and wildlife of the area or just enjoy the scenery and solitude. BLM in Wyoming designated three byways this year and will designate additional routes in the future. The three byways in Wyoming are the Red Gulch/Alkali Byway in the Worland District which runs through the western foothills of the Big Horn Mountains; the Seminoe to Alcova Byway in the Rawlins District which passes through the scenic Seminoe mountains along the Pathfinder and Seminoe reservoirs on the North Platte River; and the South Big Horn/Redwall Byway in the Casper District which traverses the east slopes of the southern Big Horn mountains.

The South Big Horn/Redwall Byway in the Casper District was the scene for the dedication ceremonies on August 16 to officially recognize BLM's contribution to the back country byway program in Wyoming.

The Wyoming BLM Recreation Guide was published at the beginning of the summer tourist season. This attractive brochure provides information on a full spectrum of recreation opportunities available on the public lands. Almost two million visitors enjoyed the unlimited outdoor adventure of recreation on Wyoming's public lands. The brochure is available from any BLM office, the Wyoming Travel Commission, or principle highway information areas around the state.



Sign Program

The BLM's sign construction program is operated from the Bureau's single shop facility at the Rawlins District Office. During FY90, the sign shop constructed 8,664 signs for 52 BLM offices throughout the country.

Technographics

BLM in Wyoming produces and maintains a variety of maps. These include maps for RMPs, EISs, and specialty maps showing specific information and locations. The base map series covering Wyoming contains fifty-six 1:100,000 scale maps showing detailed land status information. These maps are updated on a periodic basis. There is an ongoing effort to update the roads and ownership status to provide more accurate public land legal access information. Last year, ten maps were revised and six maps reprinted. Additionally, there are state land status and mineral status maps at scales of 1:500,000 and 1:1,000,000 available.

The technographics staff assists in collecting, compiling, and entering the data into a computer system for analytical use by field and state office BLM employees. Assistance is also provided to field personnel on the use of large data sets on the computer system.

Visual information specialists provide designs and illustrations for a variety of graphic products in support of a wide range of projects. A few of these products included production of brochures, cover designs, posters, slide shows, displays, and interpretive signs. A graphics display computer system is used to develop ideas and construct layouts for publications.

Soil, Water and Air

BLM in Wyoming is playing a major role in protecting and improving the soil, water, and air resources on public land.

Public awareness of the potential effects of fossil fuel burning on the global environment has continued to increase. In response, the BLM in Wyoming proposed and Washington has accepted the Intermountain Wilderness Area Ecosystem Study. This project will monitor the air and ecology of a variety of BLM wilderness areas and wilderness study areas to determine if such remote sites are being affected by large scale atmospheric changes.

In Wyoming, the BLM monitors acid rain at sites near Pinedale, Newcastle, and Lander (Sinks Canyon). Results from these sites and all Western U.S. sites in the National Acid Deposition Project network are now available to BLM offices and other interested parties using the Wildland Resources Information Data System (WRIDS). This data base system was developed as part of the Baseline Wilderness Monitoring Study. Water monitoring data from Wyoming for this year is also available in WRIDS format.

Soil surveys are used by the BLM to determine what will happen to soils and the watershed under various uses, such as road construction, timber harvest, oil and gas exploration and development and mining. During 1990, some 197,000 acres of soils were surveyed. This brings the total to almost 17,000,000 acres of public land surveyed for soil characteristics in Wyoming.



Wild Horses

BLM in Wyoming has been updating its Wild Horse Herd Management Area Plans (WHHMAPs) to ensure compliance with a recent IBLA ruling and policy change on establishing appropriate management levels of wild horses. BLM issued a removal plan and EA encompassing the White Mountain, Great Divide Basin, and Salt Wells Wild Horse Herd Management Areas within the Rock Springs District in March. This plan was appealed by the Animal Protection Institute (API), and in July, IBLA issued an order upholding the BLM's plan in part. This allowed BLM to proceed with removal of excess wild horses in these areas, and 410 horses had been rounded up by September 30, 1990. BLM also issued a removal plan and EA for the 15 Mile Herd Management Area in the Worland District. This plan was also appealed by API, and has not yet been decided. There are eight more WHHMAPs that must be evaluated before removal plans can be issued, and the BLM is in the process of collecting the necessary field data to conduct these evaluations. It may be three years before this process is complete.

Wyoming currently has approximately 5,100 horses on the range based on aerial census conducted this year. Current plans call for an appropriate management level of 2,600, however this could change as the evaluations are completed.

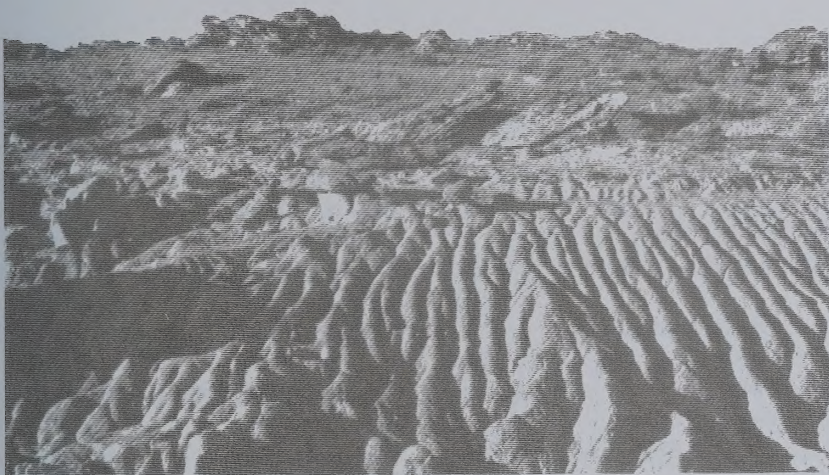
BLM continued its agreement with the Wyoming Honor Farm in Riverton to halter and saddle train wild horses. A total of 276 horses were trained under this program. Most of these were adopted in Wyoming, and horses continue to be available for adoption at Riverton. BLM in Wyoming adopted 296 horses, and the remainder that were removed from the range were either shipped to the BLM Eastern States Office for adoption, or sent to sanctuaries in South Dakota and Oklahoma.

Wilderness

BLM in Wyoming completed the wilderness statewide reporting package culminating 12 years of inventory and study of the wilderness resource. This report contains recommendations on 40 wilderness study areas totalling 576,000 acres. BLM recommends 21 areas (240,091 acres) be designated wilderness by the Congress and included in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The 21 areas include magnificent mountains, spectacular canyons, forboding badlands, and awesome sand dunes. The many resource values these areas contain were evaluated in a multiple-use context and were determined to be suitable for wilderness designation. If Congress designates them wilderness, the 21 areas will be protected in perpetuity as areas of stability in an ever changing Wyoming landscape.





Withdrawal Processing

Public Land Order No. 6774 withdrew 32.56 acres of public land from surface entry and mining for the Bureau of Reclamation for 20 years to protect capital investments of the Buffalo Bill Dam and Reservoir recreation area. Additionally, 320 acres were withdrawn by PLO No. 6784 for a period expiring on February 8, 2038, for Alcova Reservoir.

In accordance with the terms of the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Amendments Act of 1988, 80 acres of federal mineral estate was permanently transferred to the Department of Energy.

Effective September 14, 1990, PLO No. 6797 withdrew 9609.74 acres of public mineral estate from mining for a period of 20 years to protect the Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Winter Range and capital investments in the area.

BLM in Wyoming Office Directory

Wyoming State Office

State Director

Ray Brubaker

Associate State Director

F. William Eikenberry

2515 Warren Avenue

P.O. Box 1828

Cheyenne, WY 82003

(307) 775-6001

FTS 329-6001

Casper District

District Manager

James W. Monroe

1700 East "E" Street

Casper, WY 82601

(307) 261-7600

FTS 329-7600

Platte River Resource Area

Area Manager

William Mortimer

815 Connie

P.O. Drawer 2420

Mills, WY 82644

(307) 261-7500

FTS 329-7500

Buffalo Resource Area

Area Manager

Dave Pomerinke

189 N. Cedar

Buffalo, WY 82834

(307) 684-5586

Newcastle Resource Area

Area Manager

Floyd Ewing

1101 Washington Blvd.

Newcastle, WY 82701

(307) 746-4453

Rawlins District

District Manager

Position vacant

1300 N. 3rd Street

P.O. Box 670

Rawlins, WY 82301

(307) 324-7171

FTS 328-3011

Great Divide Resource Area

Area Manager

Bud Holbrook

812 E. Murray

P.O. Box 670

Rawlins, WY 82301

(307) 324-4841

Lander Resource Area

Area Manager

Jack Kelly

125 Sunflower

P.O. Box 589

Lander, WY 82520

(307) 332-7822

Rock Springs District

District Manager
Don Sweep
U.S. Highway 191 N.
P.O. Box 1869
Rock Springs, WY 82902
(307) 382-5350
FTS 328-6011

Green River Resource Area

Area Manager
Bill LeBarron
1993 Dewar Drive
P.O. Box 1170
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82902
(307) 362-6422

Kemmerer Resource Area

Area Manager
Darrel Short
Highway 189 North
P.O. Box 632
Kemmerer, WY 83101
(307) 877-3933

Pinedale Resource Area

Area Manager
Arlan Hiner
431 W. Pine Street
P.O. Box 768
Pinedale, WY 82941
(307) 367-4358

Worland District

District Manager
Darrell Barnes
101 S. 23rd Street
P.O. Box 119
Worland, WY 82401
(307) 347-9871

Grass Creek Resource Area

Area Manager
Joe Vessels
101 S. 23rd Street
P.O. Box 119
Worland, WY 82401
(307) 347-9871

Washakie Resource Area

Area Manager
Roger Inman
101 S. 23rd Street
P.O. Box 119
Worland, WY 82401
(307) 347-9871

Cody Resource Area

Area Manager
Duane Whitmer
1714 Stampede Avenue
P.O. Box 518
Cody, WY 82414
(307) 587-2216

BLM IN WYOMING

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